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6-12-02

PATENT
Attorney Docket No. 044170-5052-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
)
Ronald W. MINK *et al.*) Group Art Unit: 1723
)
Application No.: 09/292,293) Examiner: D. Sorkin
)
Title: DEVICE FOR COLLECTION AND ASSAY)
OF ORAL FLUIDS)

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination of the above-identified application on the merits, please amend the application as follows.

In the Claims:

Please add the following claims:

48. A method of detecting an analyte in oral fluid of a subject, said method comprising:
inserting an apparatus for collection and lateral flow chromatography of an oral fluid, the apparatus comprising:
a lateral flow chromatography strip including a receiving area;
a capillary matrix having a surface; and
a bite portion coupled to the capillary matrix and insertable between teeth of a subject to position the surface of the capillary matrix for receiving an oral fluid of the subject, the capillary matrix being in communication with the lateral flow chromatography strip to wick up and deliver the received oral fluid to the receiving area of the lateral flow chromatography strip,
into the oral cavity of said subject such that said bite portion is held between the teeth of said subject;